



I'VE GOT TO
INVENT
SOMEONE TO
SAVE ME--

--SOMEONE
SUPER-STRONG...
WHO CAN **FLY--**

--LIKE
HIM!

**GREAT
KRYPTON!**
WHAT AM I
DOING
HERE?

**"THE MAN
WHO CREATED
SUPERMAN"**



ALL RIGHT, KIDS...
GATHER ROUND
YOUR **UNCLE JOEY**
HERE AND LISTEN
TO A NEW STORY...



...ABOUT THE MIGHTY
HERO FROM THE SKY
WHO GUARDS THE
WHOLE WORLD FROM
DANGER--



--THE SAME HERO
WHO SOMEDAY IS
GONNA PLOP HIMSELF
DOWN RIGHT HERE AND
TAKE **UNCLE JOEY** BACK
HOME! I CALL HIM...

SUPERMAN

...AND I CAN MAKE
SUPERMAN DO ANYTHING I
WANT--LIKE GO AFTER A CAR
THAT'S SLIPPING OFF A MOUNTAIN
ROAD! I CAN DO IT BECAUSE I'M...

"The MAN WHO CREATED SUPERMAN!"

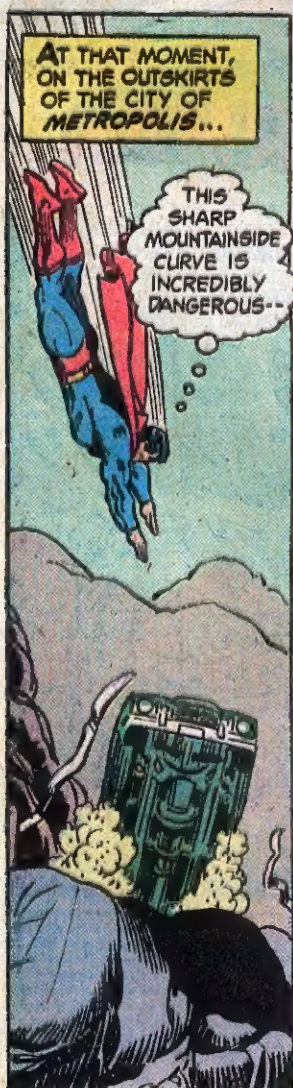
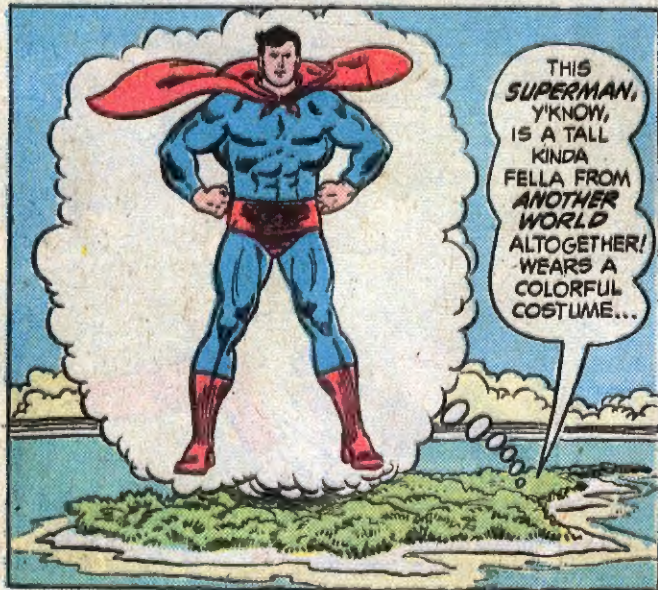
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BOB OKSNER



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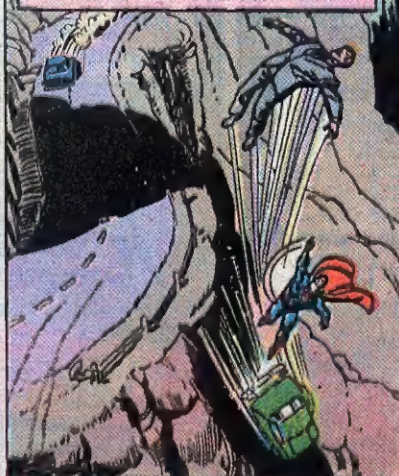


MOMENTS BEFORE THE SECOND CAR CAREENS OFF THE CLIFFSIDE, THE SON OF KRYPTON LETS GO OF THE FIRST CAR...

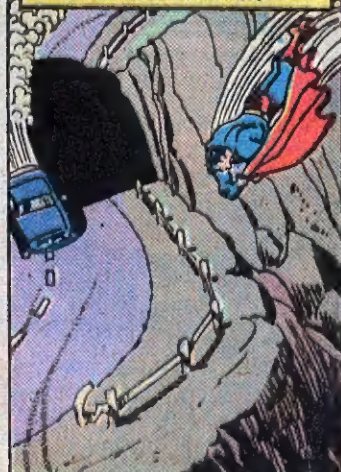
...AND IN MID-AIR HE RIPS OFF THE DOOR NEXT TO THE DRIVER'S SEAT...



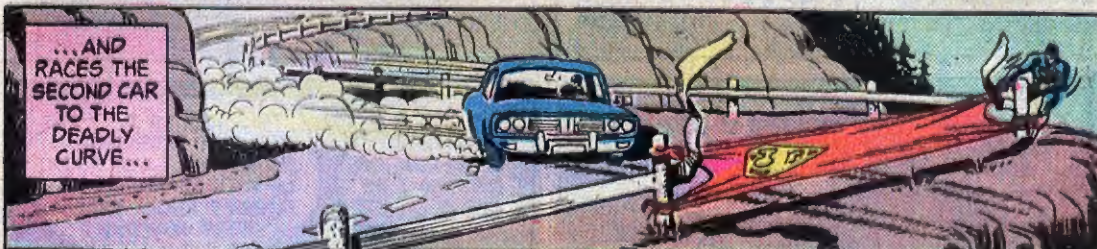
NEXT THING THE FALLING DRIVER KNOWS, HE'S BEING LIFTED AND HURLED INTO THE SKY...



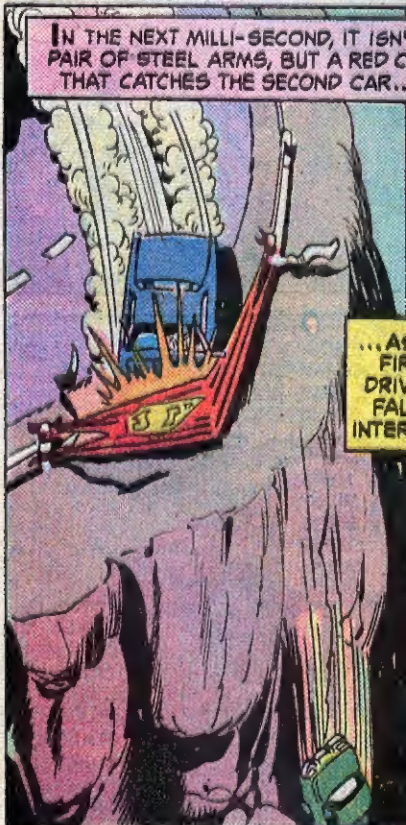
...AS SUPERMAN SNATCHES THE INDESTRUCTIBLE CAPE FROM HIS BACK...



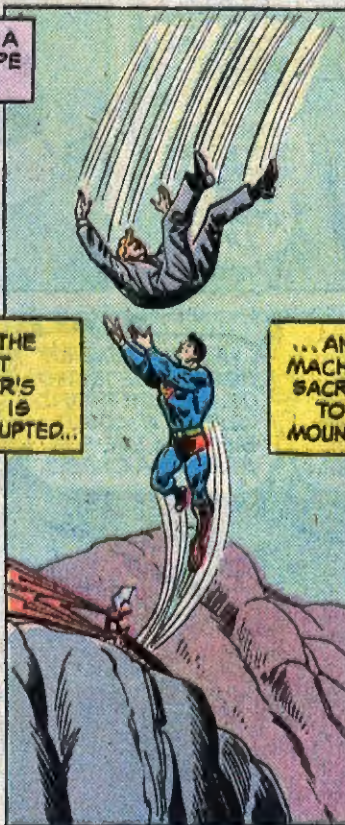
...AND RACES THE SECOND CAR TO THE DEADLY CURVE...



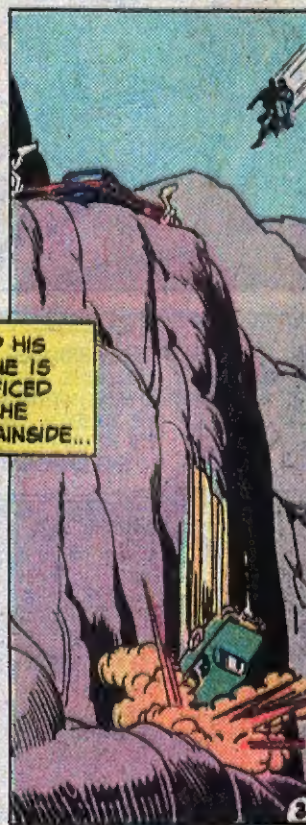
IN THE NEXT MILLI-SECOND, IT ISN'T A PAIR OF STEEL ARMS, BUT A RED CAPE THAT CATCHES THE SECOND CAR...



...AS THE FIRST DRIVER'S FALL IS INTERRUPTED...



...AND HIS MACHINE IS SACRIFICED TO THE MOUNTAINSIDE...



NOW WATCH WHAT HAPPENS NEXT AND DECIDE WHETHER IT IS **CHANCE, FATE OR SOMETHING ELSE** THAT BRINGS THESE THREE PEOPLE TOGETHER ON THIS MOUNTAINSIDE...

S-S-SUPERMAN! MY PAPERS ARE IN THAT CAR! I **MUST** HAVE THEM BACK!

CALM DOWN, FELLA! THEY'RE A **CHARRED MESS!** IT WAS A CHOICE BETWEEN YOU AND THE CAR...

...AND YOU **WON!**

SUPERMAN-- THANK YOU FOR SAVING ME! MY NAME IS **WERNER SPRINGER...**

I AM USUALLY A BETTER DRIVER, BUT I WAS HURRYING TO--

--TO A MEETING OF THE **DEFENSIVE ARMS COMMISSION** IN THE CITY, RIGHT?

WHY, YES-- HOW DID YOU KNOW?

MY NAME IS **BRAD JEROME--** AND I'M GOING TO THE SAME PLACE...

...BECAUSE I WANT TO STOP PEOPLE LIKE **YOU, MR. SPRINGER,** FROM EXPLODING YOUR BOMBS WHERE THEY COULD **DESTROY LIFE!**

IS THIS A **PRIVATE** CONVERSATION, OR CAN I BE LET IN ON IT?

THIS MAN IS A BRILLIANT SCIENTIST, **SUPERMAN,** SO CAUGHT UP WITH RESEARCH HE DOESN'T KNOW RIGHT FROM **WRONG!**

HO-HUM--

MR. SPRINGER IS PUSHING TO TEST A NEW WEAPON OF HIS DESIGN BEFORE IT'S BEEN PROVEN IN THE LABORATORY...

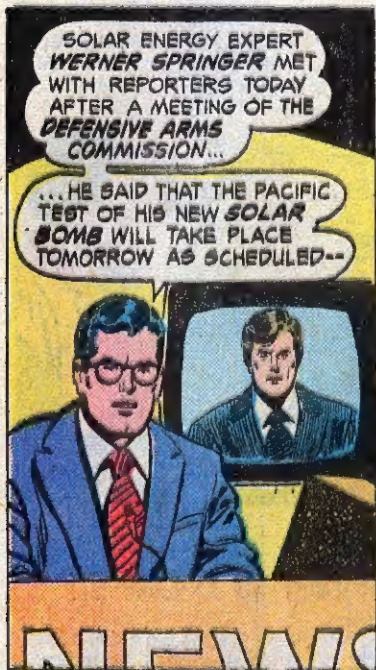
...A **SOLAR ENERGY BOMB** TO BE TESTED ON A SOUTH PACIFIC ISLAND! IT COULD BURN ALL LIFE FOR MILES TO A CINDER!

ENOUGH OF THIS **ALARMIST TALK!** I HAVE A MEETING TO ATTEND!

HMPH! DIDN'T EVEN OFFER ME A **RIDE!**

YOU'LL BEAT HIM THERE... BECAUSE I'M **FLYING** YOU!

CONTINUED ON 32P PAGE FOLLOWING





OH--ER...
GOSH...
LOOK OUT!

OH, STEVE...
EXCUSE ME!

MY \$300 SUIT--
COFFEE-STAINED!



UH--
BETTER
GET BACK
TO MY OFFICE...

IT'S ALMOST WORTH
LOSING OUR DRINKS TO
SEE CLARK SHOW UP THAT
DUMB JOCK, LOMBARD!



BUT THE FUN'S OVER--WHEN CLARK
REACHES HIS OFFICE TO FIND...

THAT JEROME FELLOW
FROM THE CAR ACCIDENT!
WHAT'S HE WANT WITH
CLARK KENT?

MR. KENT? I'M
BRAD JEROME AND
I'M WITH A COMPANY
CONCERNED WITH
ECOLOGY! I'D LIKE
TO TALK ABOUT THAT
SOLAR BOMB--



--AND THE
POSSIBILITY
OF YOUR
CONTACTING
SUPERMAN
TO STOP IT!

ER, WELL,
I'LL SEE
WHAT I
CAN DO...

FORGIVE
ME FOR
TALKING
SO FAST...
BUT
ECOLOGY
ISN'T THE
ONLY REASON
I WANT TO
STOP THE
BOMB...



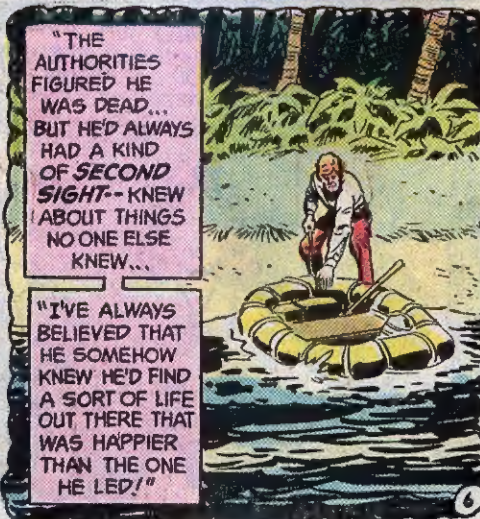
I HAD A CAR
ACCIDENT THIS
MORNING IN WHICH
I LOST EXPERIMENTAL
FINDINGS SHOWING
THAT THERE MAY
BE A *HABITABLE*
ISLAND...

...IN THE UNDER-
EXPLORED REGION
OF THE OCEAN
WHERE THE BOMB
IS TO BE TESTED--



"--AN ISLAND
HOLDING NOT
ONLY THOUSANDS
OF ANIMALS,
BUT POSSIBLY
MY LOST UNCLE,
JOSEPH J.
JEROME...

"...WHO TOOK
OFF IN AN
INFLATABLE
RAFT FROM A
CRUISE SHIP IN
THE AREA TWENTY-
FIVE YEARS AGO!"



"THE
AUTHORITIES
FIGURED HE
WAS DEAD...
BUT HE'D ALWAYS
HAD A KIND
OF *SECOND*
SIGHT-- KNEW
ABOUT THINGS
NO ONE ELSE
KNEW...

"I'VE ALWAYS
BELIEVED THAT
HE SOMEHOW
KNEW HE'D FIND
A SORT OF LIFE
OUT THERE THAT
WAS HAPPIER
THAN THE ONE
HE LED!"

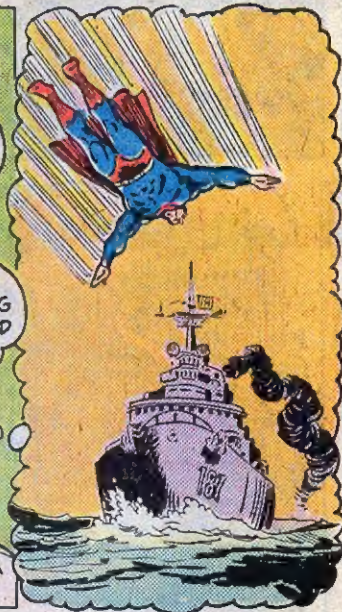
AT ALMOST THAT VERY MOMENT, ON A TINY ISLAND PARADISE IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC...

SO THIS NEWSMAN FELLA, HE RIGHT AWAY TOLD HIS HERO-FRIEND **SUPERMAN** THE STORY...

...AND **SUPERMAN**, HE'D NEVER BEEN TOO KEEN ON HAVING THIS BOMB, ANYWAY! SO EVEN THOUGH HE THOUGHT IT WAS **CRAZY--**

-- HE UP AND FLEW OFF-- HE COULD FLY, Y'KNOW-- TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD...

... WHERE IT WAS STILL **DAYLIGHT** AND THEY WERE GETTING THIS BOMB READED UP FOR THE BIG BOOM ...



AND GUESS WHO PLOPPED OUT OF THE SKY ONTO THE DECK OF A CERTAIN NAVY CRUISE SHIP AS THE OLD MAN SPOKE THOSE WORDS!...

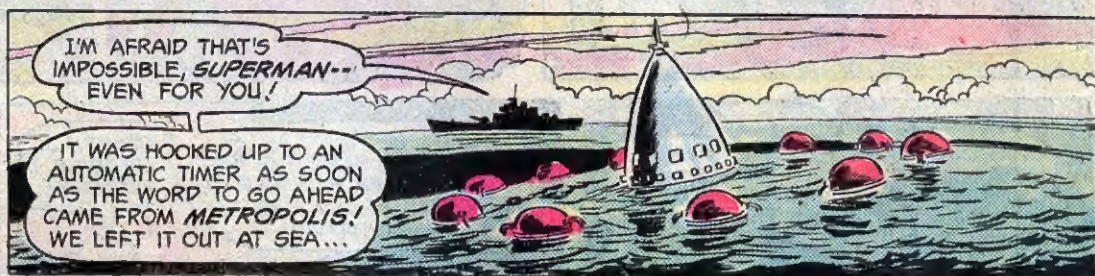
SUPERMAN!-- WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE?

ASKING YOU TO DELAY THE TEST OF THE **SOLAR BOMB**, CAPTAIN! I HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE IT MAY CAUSE A GREAT CATASTROPHE!



I'M AFRAID THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE, **SUPERMAN**-- EVEN FOR YOU!

IT WAS HOOKED UP TO AN AUTOMATIC TIMER AS SOON AS THE WORD TO GO AHEAD CAME FROM **METROPOLIS**! WE LEFT IT OUT AT SEA ...



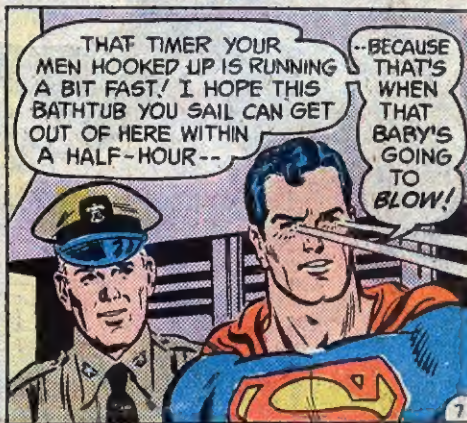
... AND NOW WE'RE HEADING FOR AN OBSERVATION POINT AT A SAFE DISTANCE! WANT TO SEE WITH THE BINOCs?

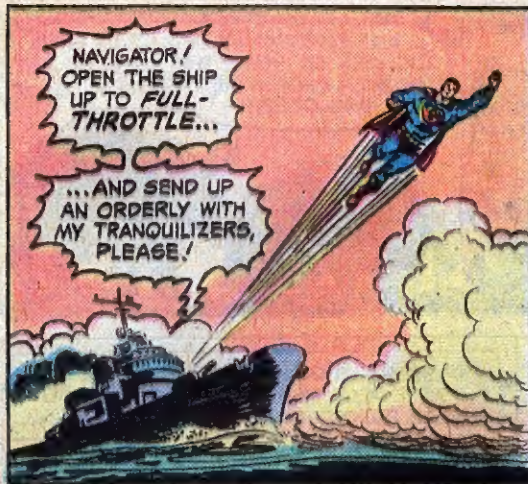
I CAN SEE BETTER WITHOUT THEM, THANKS! AND I'VE GOT SOME HEAVY NEWS FOR YOU, CAPTAIN!



THAT TIMER YOUR MEN HOOKED UP IS RUNNING A BIT FAST! I HOPE THIS BATHTUB YOU SAIL CAN GET OUT OF HERE WITHIN A HALF-HOUR--

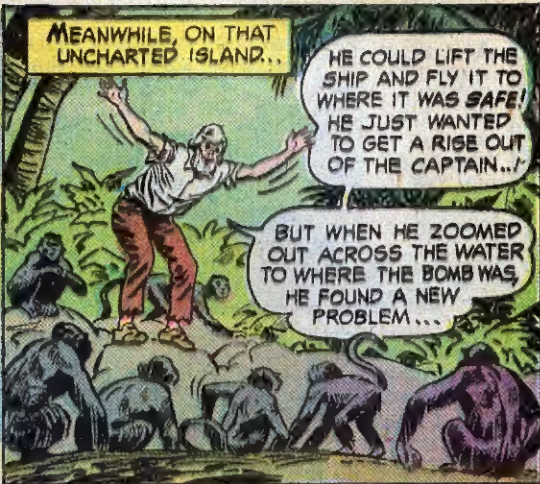
--BECAUSE THAT'S WHEN THAT BARY'S GOING TO BLOW!





NAVIGATOR!
OPEN THE SHIP
UP TO FULL-
THROTTLE...

...AND SEND UP
AN ORDERLY WITH
MY TRANQUILIZERS,
PLEASE!



MEANWHILE, ON THAT
UNCHARTED ISLAND...

HE COULD LIFT THE
SHIP AND FLY IT TO
WHERE IT WAS SAFE!
HE JUST WANTED TO
GET A RISE OUT
OF THE CAPTAIN...

BUT WHEN HE ZOOMED
OUT ACROSS THE WATER
TO WHERE THE BOMB WAS,
HE FOUND A NEW
PROBLEM...



AND AS "UNCLE JOEY" TELLS HIS ANIMAL FRIENDS
ABOUT HIS MADE-UP CHARACTER'S NEW PROBLEM...

GREAT
STARS!--
I'M GOING TO
HAVE TO DO
MORE THAN
LIFT THAT
WARSHIP OUT
OF THE WAY
WHEN THIS
MONSTER
GOES UP!

IF I MOVE IT,
IT'LL EXPLODE!
IF I DON'T STOP
IT, THE RESULTS
WILL BE WORSE
THAN THE
ECOLOGISTS
FEARED--!



OLD SUPERMAN
DISCOVERED THAT
WHEN THE BOMB
WENT, IT WOULD
SEND OUT A
HEAT-WAVE
AROUND THE
WORLD...

...THAT WOULD
SUCK UP ALL THE
OXYGEN IN THE
AIR... AND NO
LIVING THING
WOULD
SURVIVE!



NOW, OUR HERO WAS
AT A LOSS! THE WORLD
HE'D SPENT A LIFETIME
DEFENDING WAS ABOUT
TO KILL ITSELF...

...AND HE
DIDN'T
KNOW HOW
TO STOP
IT! SO HE
JUST FLEW
AROUND
THINKING...



...UNTIL HE FOUND AN
ISLAND--THE SAME ONE THE
YOUNG FELLER HAD TOLD HIS
REPORTER FRIEND ABOUT!
AND ON THE ISLAND--

JOSEPH J.
JEROME, I
PRESUME...?

EH?--
OH, MY
GOSH!

(CONTINUED ON 315 PAGE FOLLOWING)



SUPERMAN! BUT YOU'RE A FIGMENT OF MY IMAGINATION! YOU DON'T REALLY EXIST--AND NEITHER DOES THE SOLAR BOMB!

THE SOLAR BOMB? HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT?

THE OLD CASTAWAY THEN TELLS THE MAN OF STEEL THE STORY OF HIS PAST FEW DAYS AS IT HAPPENED, WORD-FOR-AMAZING-WORD AND...

WHAT ELSE DID YOU "MAKE UP" ABOUT ME?

YOU HAVE AN ENEMY-- A BALD, EVIL SCIENTIST--

YES--LEX LUTHOR!

--AND ANOTHER ONE--A DESPERADO FROM THE OLD WEST...

TERRA-MAN!

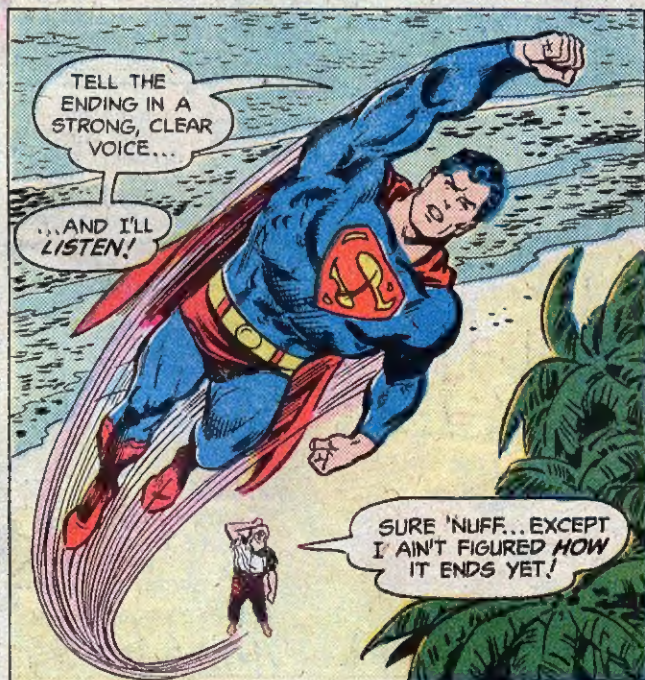
AND YOU MET ANOTHER PLANET'S HERO NOT LONG AGO--

VARTOX! INCREDIBLE!

JEROME--I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU DO THIS... BUT I WANT YOU TO DO SOMETHING FOR ME--

ANYTHING! WHAT IS IT?

END YOUR STORY! FIGURE OUT HOW I DEFUSE THE BOMB...



TELL THE ENDING IN A STRONG, CLEAR VOICE...

...AND I'LL LISTEN!

SURE 'NUFF... EXCEPT I AIN'T FIGURED HOW IT ENDS YET!



"I SUPPOSE YOU START BY ROCKETING BACK TO THE BOMB..."

"...AND YOU STAND AROUND LOOKING CONFUSED FOR A MINUTE OR SO..."

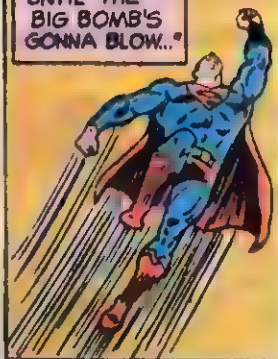


"THEN THIS SWARM OF NAVY JETS SENT BY THAT PANICKY CAPTAIN SCREAMS OVERHEAD..."

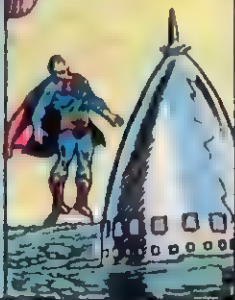


"AND THAT'S STUPID--SO IT TEES YOU OFF! YOU HOP UP TOWARD THE NAVY BOMBS..."

"...AND YOU REALIZE THAT IT'S LESS THAN FIVE MINUTES UNTIL THE BIG BOMB'S GONNA BLOW..."

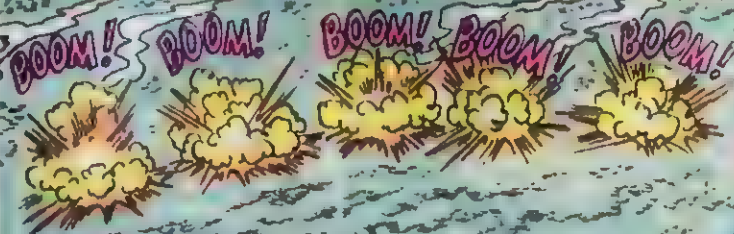
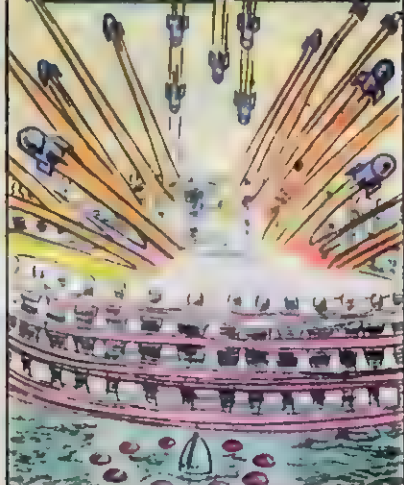


"...TRYING A DOOMED MILLION-TO-ONE SHOT--THE CHANCE THAT THEY CAN BLAST THE SOLAR BOMB WITHOUT IT GOING OFF..."



"...YOU SPIN AROUND THOSE LITTLE PEA-BOMBS LIKE A DERVISH TO GET THEM OUT OF THE WAY..."

"...UNTIL THEY ALL FLY OUT TO BLOW WHERE THEY CAN'T DO HARM! BUT THEY GIVE YOU AN IDEA--!"



YES! IF I CAN SEPARATE THE BIG BOOM INTO A BUNCH OF LITTLE BOOMS...

...MAYBE IT WON'T CAUSE THAT DEADLY WALL OF INTENSE HEAT TO SWEEP OVER THE EARTH LIKE A SHROUD!

"NOW YOU KNOW HOW YOU'LL HANDLE THE PROBLEM-- AND IF IT DOESN'T WORK, IT DOESN'T MATTER..."

"... BECAUSE EARTH WON'T SURVIVE THE BLAST... AND MAYBE YOU WON'T EITHER..."

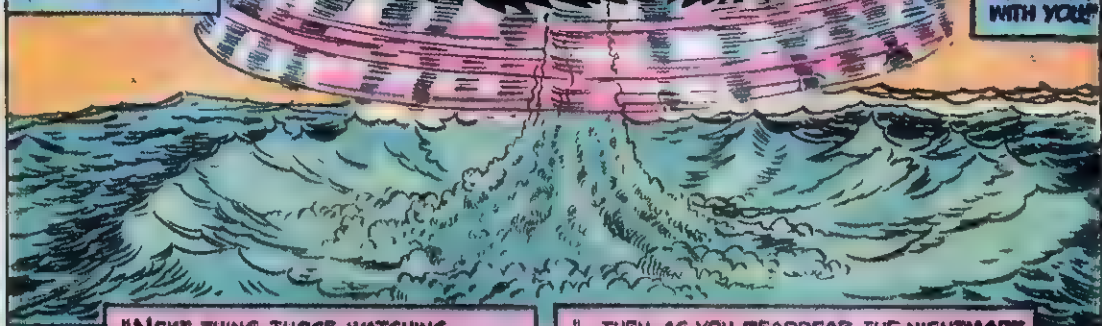


THE BLAST WILL GO OFF IN SECONDS! HOPE I CAN BUILD TO THE RIGHT SPEED BY THEN...



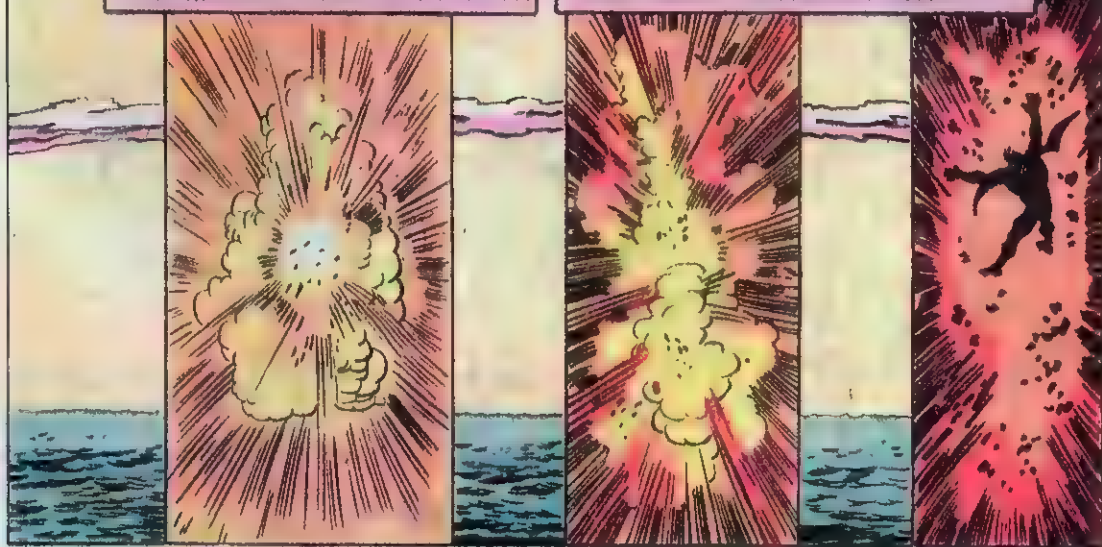
"YOU SPIN
LIKE THREE
BILLION
LIVES DEPEND
ON IT--THEY DO!--
AND JUST AS THE
DEMON WEAPON
CLICKS THE
SIGNAL IT'S ABOUT
TO BLOW..."

"...YOU
CRACK
THROUGH
THE TIME
BARRIER
A MINUTE
INTO THE
FUTURE
AND TAKE
THE 'DEMON'
WITH YOU!"



"NEXT THING THOSE WATCHING
FROM THE SHIP KNOW IS THAT YOU
AND THE BOMB VANISH FOR A MOMENT..."

"...THEN, AS YOU REAPPEAR, THE NIGHTMARE
BOMB BEGINS TO EXPLODE--THEN YOU
DISAPPEAR--AND APPEAR AGAIN..."

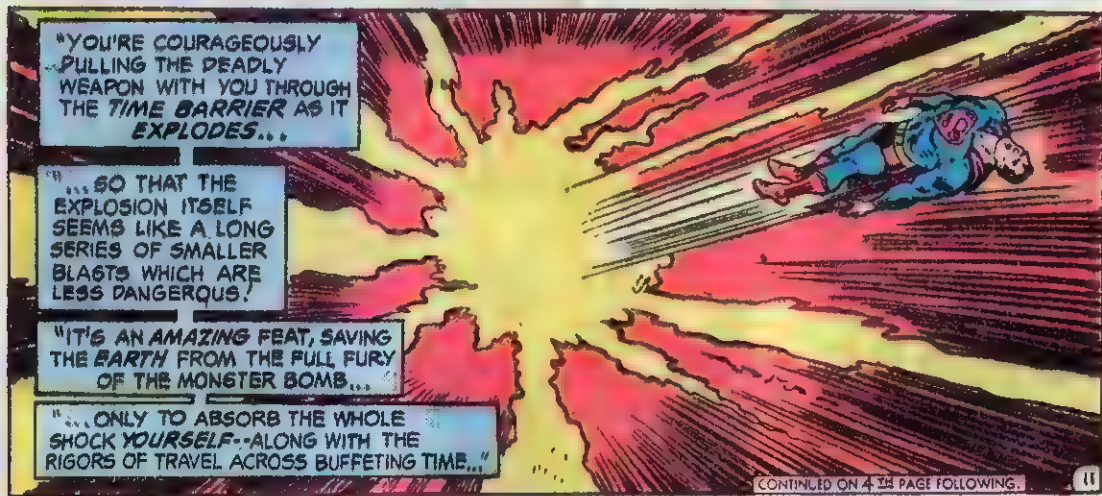


"YOU'RE COURAGEOUSLY
PULLING THE DEADLY
WEAPON WITH YOU THROUGH
THE TIME BARRIER AS IT
EXPLODES..."

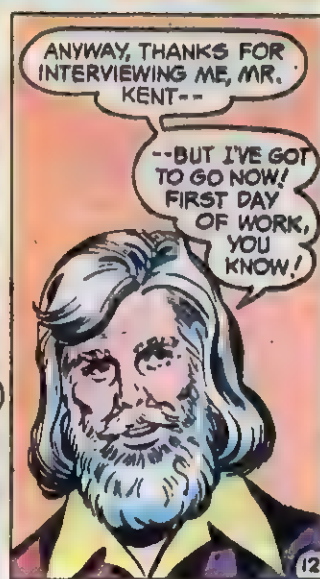
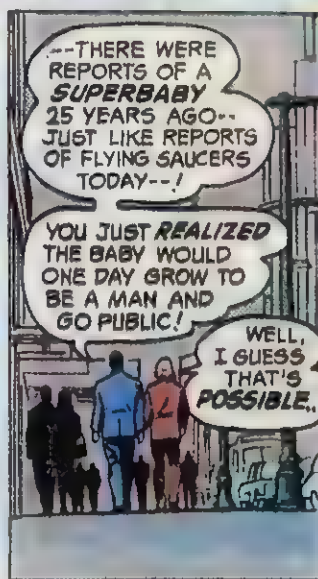
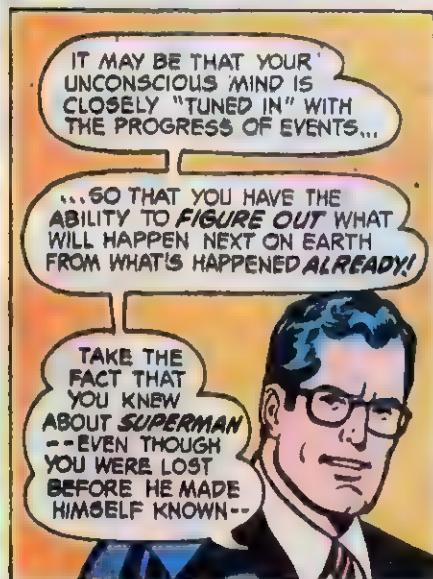
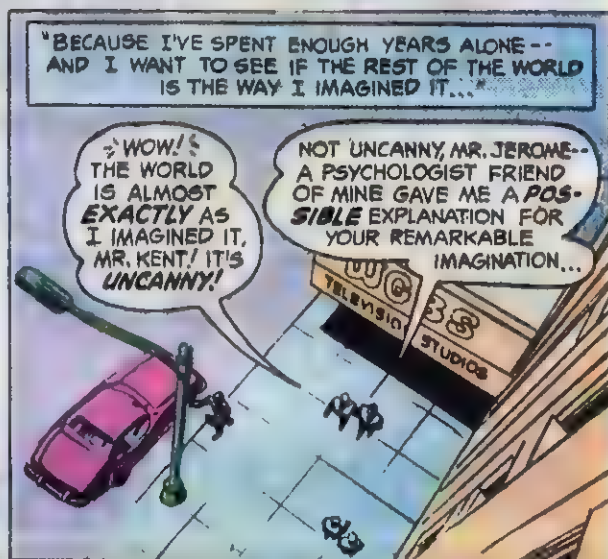
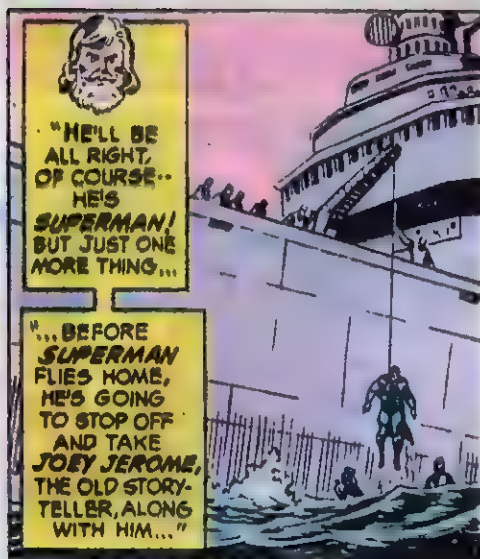
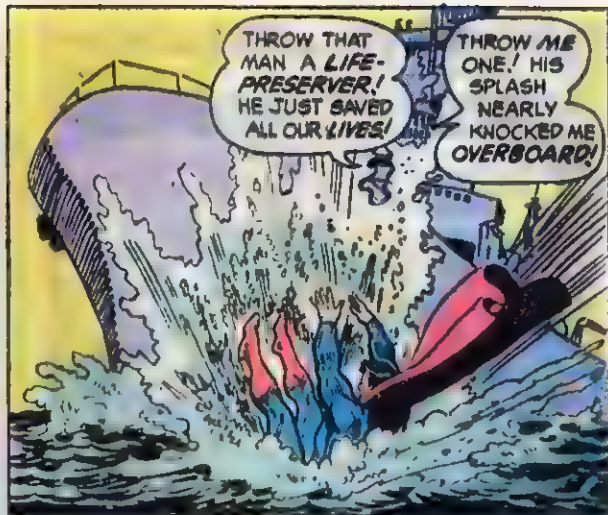
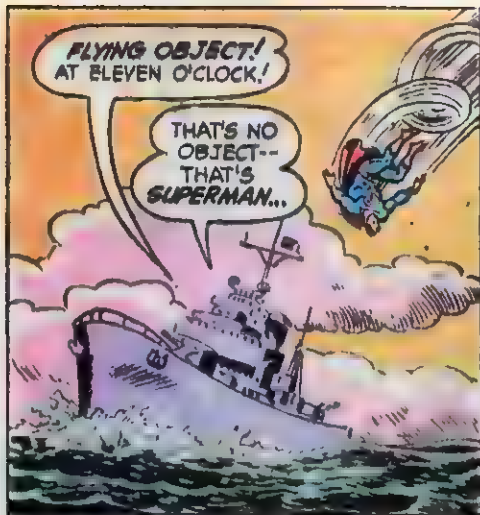
"...SO THAT THE
EXPLOSION ITSELF
SEEMS LIKE A LONG
SERIES OF SMALLER
BLASTS WHICH ARE
LESS DANGEROUS!"

"IT'S AN AMAZING FEAT, SAVING
THE EARTH FROM THE FULL FURY
OF THE MONSTER BOMB..."

"...ONLY TO ABSORB THE WHOLE
SHOCK YOURSELF--ALONG WITH THE
RIGORS OF TRAVEL ACROSS BUFFETING TIME..."



CONTINUED ON 4TH PAGE FOLLOWING.



AND SOON, IN ANOTHER PART OF THE CITY...

I HAD A FEELING YOU MIGHT LIKE THIS KIND OF WORK, JEROME!

THANKS FOR ARRANGING MY NEW JOB, **SUPERMAN**-- AND THANKS FOR COMING TO SIGN AUTOGRAPHS ON MY FIRST DAY!

I'LL BE LEAVING NOW... YOU'RE THE **FEATURE** ATTRACTION HERE!

SEE YOU!!!

GATHER ROUND, FRIENDS... YOUR **UNCLE JOEY'S** GONNA TELL YOU A STORY!..

... ABOUT AN ANCIENT **VIKING** VILLAGE HIDDEN FROM HUMAN SIGHT IN THE WOODS OF **NORTHERN MAINE**--

EVEN A **SUPERMAN** CAN LEARN SOMETHING FROM THE OLD STORYTELLER--

-- LIKE THE FACT THAT SOME PEOPLE CAN ONLY BELIEVE IN THE **REALITY** OF WHAT THEY **SEE** AND **TOUCH**...

... WHILE TO OTHERS, **IMAGINATION** IS SO **REAL** THAT IT MAY AS WELL BE **TRUTH**!

NOW FEATURING **UNCLE JOEY JEROME** WORLD'S GREATEST STORYTELLER

THE END



Dear Editor:

S-1949

Welcome to Oak Hill, West Virginia, for the long-awaited **Action #443** debate between amiable Dr. Thomas and the cryptic, caustic Mr. Buc. The topic for debate is "At Last! Clark Kent—Super-Hero!" We will begin with Dr. Thomas.

Thomas: I immensely enjoyed all 108 panels. I'm helpless for great hero vs. villain melees. I was overwhelmed with the return of such stupendous bad guys as **Clayface**, **Ocean Master** and the **Harpy**.

Buc: Bah! I was under the impression that **Black Canary** and the **Harpy** buried the hatchet. And how in the world did her hands extend from her wings as they did on page 7?

Thomas: Details! Come now, you must credit Elliot S! Maggin with a highly action-packed story that only DC's competitor claims to have!

Buc: With dialogue like "Darkness dribbles like syrup over the city"? You must be joking!

Thomas: I suppose you could do better?

Buc: Right on! The whole thing seemed contrived. Especially the Clark Kent/Superman cross-up! Why must we readers be subjected to these lackluster "What's going on here?" suspense stories?

Thomas: Big deal. Bucco! Elliot's line about David Frye doing **Green Arrow** imitations was priceless. I always wondered if Earth-One impressionists did super-hero imitations. And the wordless fight scene ended the story with a blast!

Buc: Doc, the **Justice League** is infallible! And the **Meson-Effect!** You call that superb?

Thomas: You know something, Buc? You're a (expletive deleted) pain!

Buc: And you're a fool for enjoying such nonsense as a **Kandorian Brain-Wave Machine!**

Thomas: If you don't like it, why don't you start reading **Marvel Comics**?

(Pause.)

Buc: On second thought, the story isn't as bad as it could have been!

A distant bell chimes midnight in the small city of Oak Hill, and in the palid, orange moonlight with

its mystical beams, the friendly Dr. Thomas and the mustachioed Mr. Buc merge into

Clint "Buc" Thomas, Oak Hill, W.Va.

(Quite a long debate, Clint—I assume Clint was the moderator—but it's finally over—and the **BUC** stops here!—E.N.B.)

Dear Editor:

I must say **Action #443's** lead story, "At Last! Clark Kent—Super-Hero" was well above expectations. There were no hidden jokes or puns, the villains were real, honest-to-God bad guys, and not once did **Superman** tell **Brainiac** to go suck a lemon. Not only did Sir Maggin acknowledge **Superman's** manifest invincibility, but he finally treated **Brainiac** as the genius he really is. I desperately hope we'll be seeing more of this sort of thing in the future.

However, there were still a couple of weak points. The use of the **Kandorian Brain-Wave Machine** was little too ad hoc. It would have been better if something already known to the reader had been used.

Second, while it may be plausible for **Oliver Queen/Green Arrow**, to go "Razzzz," it is unthinkable for **The Batman's** "icy voice" to be twisted into a "Bleahh!"

Of course, if **Clayface's** powers had been used a little more effectively (I remember a time when he transformed himself into **Superman**) and we had an explanation of how **Zazzala** escaped the trap she was left in, it would have been nice also, but I have given up hoping for more than 20 pages, just as I have given up hoping for the return of **Streaky**.

Bruce Parrello, Urbana, Ill.

(Never give up hope! We can't promise the **SUPER-CAT** in the near future, but the next **ACTION GIANT #449**, July, 1975, will feature a new 25-page **SUPERMAN** story! —E.N.B.)

Dear Editor:

Can I ask a question? How many super-villains are there on Earth-One? Aliens count, too. I'm a trivia freak and I love silly questions!

Lynne Pope, San Jose, Calif.

(The answer to that question wouldn't be trivial—it would be astronomical! I lost count years ago! —E. NELSON BRIDWELL)

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The ATOM

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?!

THE TINY TITAN IS BEATING ON TWO INNOCENT IVY UNIVERSITY SECURITY GUARDS WHILE TWO OTHERS ARE STEALING A GOLD STATUE...

RIGHT?

WRONG! 'CAUSE (a) THOSE AREN'T REAL SECURITY MEN ...AND (b) THAT'S NOT A GOLD STATUE! CONFUSED? WELL, HANG LOOSE, READER-THINGS ARE GONNA GET CRAZIER BEFORE THEY START MAKING SENSE... WHEN YOU MEET...

"The **GIRL** with the **24-KARAT DREAMS!**"

SCRIPT: MARTIN PASKO ART: RICH BUCKLER & KLAUS JANSON EDITING: JULIUS SCHWARTZ

BUT FIRST, LET'S BACKTRACK TO 8:30 THIS MORNING, WHEN PHYSICIST RAY PALMER SHUFFLED INTO HIS LABORATORY...



...TO BE NEARLY BLINDED BY THE GLITTER AND GLEAM OF WALLS, CEILING, EQUIPMENT AND FLOOR...



...OF SOLID GOLD!

A METHODICAL INSPECTION OF EVERY GLOWING INCH OF THE LAB LED RAY TO ONLY ONE POSSIBLE CONCLUSION...



...INTO GENUINE, 24-KARAT GOLD!



ENRICHETTA-?!

ENTER ITALIAN TRANSFER-STUDENT
ENRICHETTA NEGRINI*, RAY'S LAB
ASSISTANT--WHO'S GOT TROUBLE WITH
A CAPITAL "T"!

RAY, THIS IS 350B:
ALL MY FAULT!
IT HAPPENED
BEFORE!
3 SNIFF! AT
FIRST I THOUGHT
I WAS CRAZY...

...BUT NOW--

WHAT ARE YOU
TALKING ABOUT?

* MS. NEGRINI LAST APPEARED IN ATOM
#36 (FEB.-MAR., 1966)--EDITOR.

"THURSDAY NIGHT I HAD A DREAM ABOUT MY
FIANCE, HISTORY PROFESSOR ROBERTO
CASERTA..."

PLEASE,
ENRICHETTA--
SAY YOU'LL
MARRY ME!

"IN THE MORNING, I FOUND MY
PARLOR-- WHERE THE DREAM
TOOK PLACE--HAD TURNED TO..."

...GOLD?!

...THIS IS
INCREDIBLE!

"I PHONED ROBERTO-- BUT
THERE WAS NO ANSWER!"

"WHAT COULD I DO? I WAS
SO CONFUSED THAT NIGHT, I
DARED NOT SLEEP, FOR I WAS
AFRAID TO DREAM..."

"BUT FINALLY, I JUST... DROPPED
OFF..."

...AND
DREAMED
ABOUT
WORKING
IN YOUR
LABORATORY
TODAY--

--AND NOW
3 SNIFF! IT IS
GOLD! SOMEHOW,
WHATEVER I
DREAM BECOMES
GOLD--AND THAT
MEANS ROBERTO
HAS BEEN
TRANSFORMED
TOO!

NOT NECESSARILY,
ENRICHETTA-- IF
WE CAN FIND A WAY
TO REVERSE THE
PROCESS! BUT WE
CAN'T EVEN BE SURE
YOUR THEORY IS
CORRECT--

--UNTIL
WE FIND
ROBERTO!

WHY DON'T
YOU GO MAKE
SOME
COFFEE?

IT'LL HELP KEEP
YOU AWAKE--WHILE
I GO LOOK FOR
ROBERTO! COME
RIGHT BACK--

--AND DON'T LET
ANYONE IN HERE
WHILE I'M GONE!

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

AND AS SOON AS RAY CLOSES
THE GOLDEN DOOR...

HAVEN'T
HEARD REPORTS
OF A GOLDEN
MAN
BEING
DISCOVERED...

CLICK
CLICK

...SO IF
ROBERTO
HAS
BEEN
"GILDED"
I'LL HAVE
TO SCOUR
THIS
CAMPUS
TO FIND
HIM!

WHICH I
CAN DO
FASTER AS...
THE ATOM!

SHORTLY...



WELL,
I'LL BE A
MONKEY'S
PHYSICS
TEACHER!

THERE'S ROBERTO--
AND HE'S GOLDEN!
ALL RIGHT...

...AND HE'S BEING
HEISTED--ER--
HOISTED ONTO
THAT TRUCK!

NOW LET'S TAKE THIS--ER--GOLDEN
OPPORTUNITY TO CHECK UP ON
RAY'S LAB ASSISTANT...



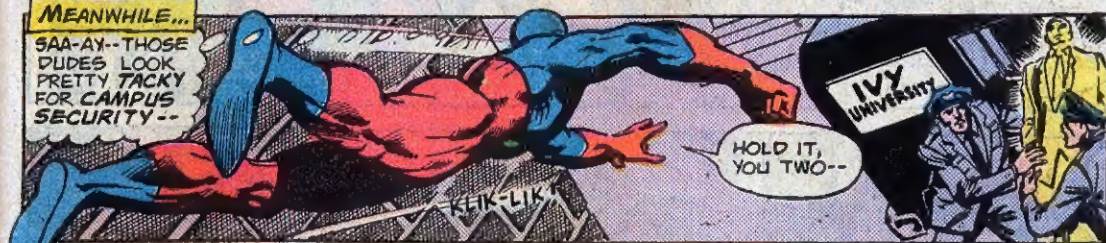
MMMPHH??!!

ME AND MY PALS HEAR YOU BEEN
HAVIN' SOME PRETTY INTERESTING
DREAMS, BABY!--SO...

...YOU'RE COMIN' ALONG
TO DO SOME DREAMIN'
FOR US!

MEANWHILE...

SAA-AY--THOSE
DUDES LOOK
PRETTY TACKY
FOR CAMPUS
SECURITY--



HOLD IT,
YOU TWO--

WELL, WELL!
I THOUGHT YOU
GUYS LOOKED A
LITTLE PHONEY
CLOSE-UP!

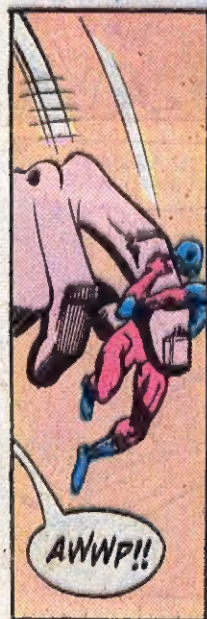
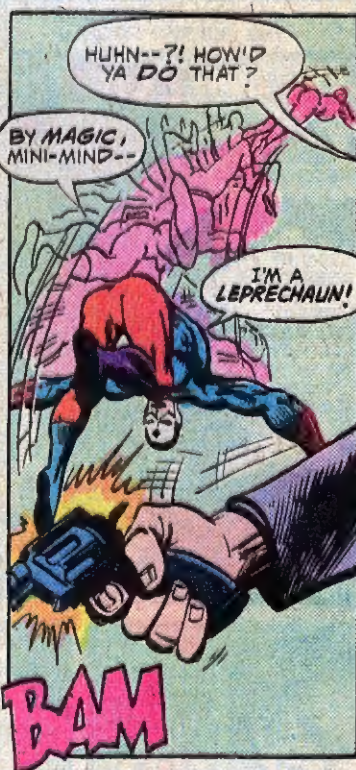
WHAT SAY
YOU UN-HAND
THAT "STATUE"?

THUNK!

ACE
ERENT-A-TRUCK

YOU HEARD
THE MAN, MIKE--?

IVY
UNIVERSITY





KKR-AACK

HAW! AS EASY
AS SWATTIN'
A FLY!

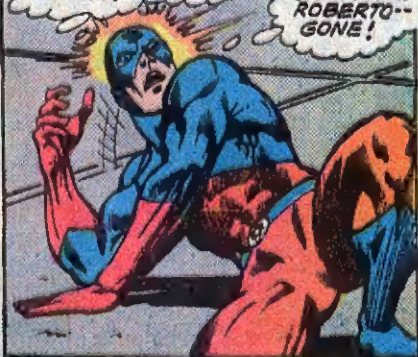
UNNN!!



HOURS LATER, WHEN CONSCIOUS-
NESS RETURNS ...

OOH!! MY HEAD--
FEELS LIKE I'VE BEEN
USING A PRESSURE-
COOKER FOR A HAIR-
DRYER!

THE
SECURITY
CREEPS...AND
ROBERTO--
GONE!



MINUTES LATER,
OUTSIDE THE
IVY U. PHYSICS
BUILDING...

BETTER CHECK
ON ENRICHETTA
BEFORE GOING
AFTER THOSE
THUGS--

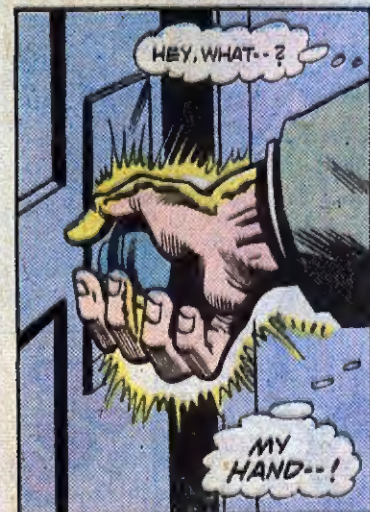
HUH?!
SHE'S GONE,
TOO?!



...AND
SO IS MOST
OF MY LAB
EQUIP-
MENT!

BUT HOW
COULD THEY HAVE
MOVED IT SO FAST?
THAT STUFF WAS
SOLID GOLD--

--MUST'VE
WEIGHED A
TON OR
MORE!



HEY, WHAT--?

MY
HAND--!



GOOD LORD!
ENRICHETTA
MUST BE
SLEEPING--

--AND
DREAMING--
OF ME!

SHE'S
TURNING ME
TO GOLD
--AND I'M
POWERLESS
TO STOP
THE
PROCESS!

WHERE IS ENRICHETTA? WHO ARE THE THUGS WHO STOLE HER
GOLDEN FIANCÉ? WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE ATOM? THE ANSWERS
WILL HAVE TO WAIT TILL NEXT ISSUE'S "NIGHTMARE IN GOLD" WHEN
THINGS GET WORSE BEFORE THEY GET BETTER!

NEXT ISSUE ON SALE DURING THE LAST WEEK IN MARCH